

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-3 and 7-9 are canceled.

Claims 10-26 are new.

Support for each amended and new claim is found at the originally filed claims and throughout the specification.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1, 4-6 and 10-26 will be active.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

Favorable reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and arguments presented in this paper.

The objection to Claims 7-9 is obviated by cancellation of Claims 7-9.

The rejection of Claims 1-9 as being anticipated by Brain or Jacobsen is respectfully traversed, because the limitations in the composition of Claim 1 are not described or suggested by Brain or Jacobsen. Claim 1 describes a high-methoxyl pectin, its salt, or hydrolysate having an esterification degree ranging from 50% to 90%, that does not comprise a low methoxyl pectin. Brain, in contrast, requires a combination of both low and high methoxyl pectin (please see, for example, the Abstract of Brain). Jacobsen, in contrast to the present invention, fails to describe or suggest the esterification degree limitation, in present Claim 1, of from 50 to 90%.

Because the references do not describe or suggest all of the limitation of Claim 1, and the claims dependent therefrom, Applicants submit the claims are not anticipated.

Withdrawal of the anticipation rejections is respectfully requested.

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Reply to Office Action of October 17, 2006

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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